



ANCIENT SKIES

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THE HISTORICAL EVIDENCE OF PALEOCONTACTS

BY DR. MATEST M. AGREST*

In 1959 I was deeply engaged in studying the problem of paleocontacts. It was clear that the problem of extraterrestrial visitations to Earth in the remote past is closely connected with all branches of positive sciences, with philosophy and with the deepest part of it-theosophy. Having experience in investigating old manuscripts, I dreamed of finding an ancient manuscript devoted to old legends about living beings who descended from the sky to Earth. Soon my attention was attracted to the well-known scrolls of the Holy Bible that had thoroughly and sacredly been protected from any changes in their content. No letter had been changed in the scrolls while rewriting them for at least the last 2,500 years. This unchanged text of the scrolls was printed many times and the five Books of Moses are well-known to millions of inhabitants of Earth. In the first Book of Moses, Genesis VI,4 we find:

וַיִּהְיוּ הַנְּפִלִים הֵיוּ בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן בְּיָמֵי הָהֵם הָאֱלֹהִים אֵלֹהֵי בְנֹת הָאָדָם וַיָּלְדוּ
וְגַם אַחֲרֵי־כֵן אֲשֶׁר יָבֹאוּ בְנֵי לָהֶם הָמָּה הַגִּבֹּרִים אֲשֶׁר מֵעוֹלָם
אֲנָשֵׁי הַשָּׁמַיִם

Here is the English translation from the new JPS, translation of 1988: "It was then, and later too, that the Nephilim appeared on earth-when the divine beings cohabited with the daughters of men, who bore them offsprings. They were the heroes of old, the men of renown."

There are no mistakes in this translation, but the Hebrew word "הַנְּפִלִים", the meaning of which contains the essential of the whole information is only transliterated and not translated into English. In other translations, not only English, the word "הַנְּפִלִים" is translated as "giants". My aim is to

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This article is based upon Dr. Agrest's presentation at the Society's 20th Anniversary World Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada in August, 1993.

prove that the translation of the Hebrew word "הַנְּפִלִים" in the aforementioned sentence of Genesis VI, 4 as the English word "giant" is incorrect. In Russia at that time it was impossible to do this because of well-known reasons. For "giant" there is another word in Hebrew, "הַנְּפִילִים" with a letter "י" before the letter "פ".

Only one letter differentiates the two words, but no letter was changed in the Bible. The correct meaning of the word "הַנְּפִילִים" is the "beings fallen" (from the sky). We find this meaning of the word "הַנְּפִילִים" in many Jewish traditions: in the Talmud Babylonian, in the Book of Zohar (the Bible of Kabbalah), in the commentaries of Rashi, etc. These "הַנְּפִילִים" are manlike beings of great size.

The name "הַנְּפִילִים" (giant) is used in the Bible for the offsprings of the "הַנְּפִילִים", beings fallen from the sky and the daughters of men. The offsprings were men of great size; therefore, in Hebrew, giants are called "הַנְּפִילִים".

All this is clearly expressed in another place in the Bible in the fourth Book of Moses, Numbers. You can find the word "הַנְּפִילִים" in the Bible only twice: in Genesis VI,4 and the second time in a sentence together with the word "הַנְּפִילִים". Only 3,300 years ago, before the Jews entered the Promised Land, a staff of 12 persons was sent by Moses to investigate the Land. When they returned they reported: the land is very good, but the inhabitants of the land are very strong. Now I am quoting the text of the Bible:

וְכָל־הָעָם אֲשֶׁר־רָאִינוּ בְּתוֹכָהּ
אֲנָשֵׁי מְדוּתִים: לֹא וְשָׁם רָאִינוּ אֶת־
הַנְּפִילִים בְּנֵי עֲנָק מִן־הַנְּפִילִים וְנָהָי
בְּעֵינֵינוּ כַּחַגְבִּים וְכֹן־הָיוּ בְּעֵינֵיהֶם:

"...All the people we saw are men of great size. We saw the "הַנְּפִילִים" (giants) there -the Anakites- the offsprings of the "הַנְּפִילִים", beings fallen from the sky. And we looked like grasshoppers to ourselves and so we must have looked to them." Numbers XIII, 32-33. The JPS translation of these sentences is also incorrect, because the two different Hebrew words "הַנְּפִילִים" and "הַנְּפִילִים" were transliterated as one and the same word: "Nephilim". As you can see, the word "הַנְּפִילִים" is not mentioned in the discussed sentence of Genesis VI, 4.

So, the discussed sentence from Genesis VI, 4 states that in the time of Enoch, the Earth was visited by extraterrestrial manlike beings. This is a written document of a paleocontact in the time of Enoch. The place of the descending of the extraterrestrial visitors is not mentioned in the Bible.

Later in this article this matter will be discussed.

In the same book, Genesis, we find a sentence that

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can be interpreted as an opposite event: an ascension of a man to the sky from the Earth. The sentence is about the Patriarch Enoch:

וַיִּוְתֶלֶךְ חֲנוֹךְ אֶת־הָאֱלֹהִים
וַאֲנִינוּ כִּי־לָקַח אֹתוֹ אֱלֹהִים : כ

"Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, for God took him," Genesis V, 24 (JPS, 1988).

The Bible informs us of the age of death of all Patriarchs mentioned in this chapter, but there is nothing about the death of Enoch in the Bible. There is an old legend that Enoch was ascended to Heaven at the age of 365. According to the old Jewish tradition, Enoch was the inventor not only of the written language, but also of mathematics and astronomy.

According to the Zohar, there was a Book of Enoch in ancient times. This book is mentioned by the Apostle Jude (14) as apocryphal. In the Koran (Sutra 28,20), Enoch is named as "dris" - a scientist. But the book of Enoch, like many other apocrypha, was lost.

A book of this name was discovered by the Scotch scientist and explorer, James Bruce, in 1773. Bruce found the manuscript of this book in a special depository - "Genise" - in Ethiopia (Abyssinia), written in the Ethiopian language. At that time it was a great discovery. At first Bruce was accused of having written the whole manuscript himself, put it into the Genise and then "discovered" it. But soon other such manuscripts were found and Bruce was vindicated. This "Book of Enoch" was printed and translated into many languages. I read the book in Russian. Here is the translation into English of chapter 6, verses 1-7:

- "1. And it came to pass that after the sons of men multiplied in those days (the days of Jared, the father of Enoch)...
- "2. And the angels, the sons of heaven, saw them."
- "3. ...
- "5. ...There were two hundred of them in all.
- "6. And they descended on Ardis which is the top of the mountain Hermon (the spur of Anti-Lebanon mountain).
- "7. ...and here are the names of their superiors (twenty names are given)."

Here we find the name of the place of descending: the mountain of Anti-Lebanon; and the time of descending: the time of Jared. It is useful to note that the word Jared in Hebrew means "descended". The event of descending of manlike beings from the sky made a great impression on the inhabitants of the Earth. In the ancient time children born at the time of an unusual event were named after the event. Thus, the name of Enoch's father was Jared.

Unfortunately we cannot assert that the contents of the discovered book of Enoch were not changed while being translated from one language into another, or while being rewritten from one copy to another. This Book of Enoch is undoubtedly not the first Book of Enoch; neither is it the book mentioned by the Apostle Jude. Many changes had been made while rewriting it. For example, all the astronomical dates in this book are the same as in middle ages astronomy. It goes without saying that a rewriter in the middle ages would change all astronomical dates in his "holy" book in accordance with the "correct" contemporary dates.

But no rewriter would make any changes in the first seven chapters of the Book of Enoch, which follow the structure of the Holy Bible. The first seven chapters of the discovered Book of Enoch are the same as in the first Book of Enoch. So, it is possible that the living beings fallen from the sky "הַנִּפְּלִים" mentioned in the sixth chapter of Genesis really descended in the times of Jared on the moun-

tain of Anti-Lebanon. This prompted me to seek material tracks of visitors in the region of the Near East. My attention was attracted to the old legend about the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, cities of ancient Palestine in the plain of the Jordan River, as described in the Bible is remarkably like what today would have been taken for a description of the effects of a nuclear explosion. The inhabitants, we find, were warned of the danger of death (from the air blast), blindness (from the intense flash) and injury (from penetrating radiation). We learn that a thick layer of earth provided protection from these dangers; that the blast produced the characteristic column of fire, smoke, dust and debris; we are told of the extent of the damage and that the whole area was uninhabitable for some time after the explosion (because of radioactive contamination).

What is amazing is the information contained in the Bible about Lot's Wife, who did not follow the advice given and stayed in an open unprotected place. She was not burnt, but "turned into a pillar of salt". Genesis XIX, 26.

It is also amazing that on the eve of the destruction "...the people who were at the entrance of the house (of Lot), young and old, were struck with blinding light, so that they were helpless to find the entrance". Genesis XIX, 11.

Another place in this region that attracted my attention was Baalbek. The famous "trilithon" in the acropolis at Baalbek, in the foothills of the Anti-Lebanon mountains, is formed of huge, crudely masoned blocks of stone, some of them 20 meters long and weighing 1,000 tons. "A companion stone 21 meters long, 4.8 meters wide and 4.2 meters high, shaped but not entirely detached from its bed, lies abandoned by its creators in the quarry. It would take the combined efforts of 40,000 men to move it from its place. "History of Baalbek", Beirut 1896. Who quarried these cyclopean blocks, when, and for what purpose? This remains a mystery.

We may assume that the astronauts took special care to preserve the evidence of their visit for the benefit of future, more enlightened generations of the human race. Knowing that time could completely obliterate all traces of their visit, they would naturally erect some conspicuous structures which would not be likely to disintegrate too soon. These would be designed, on the one hand, to lead people to the idea that extraterrestrial visitors had been here and, on the other hand, to serve as a landmark to facilitate the discovery of the detailed evidence of their visit.

An article about these ideas entitled "Traces Lead Into Space" was published on February 9, 1960 in the "Literaturnaja Gazeta." In spite of the subdued tone of the published article and often repeated question "Couldn't it be this way?", its contents spread like wildfire. In the evening of the same day, February 9, 1960, the leading radio stations of the world broadcast my hypothesis and on the next day a lot of newspapers in Europe and America reprinted the article.

But that was the year 1960. Was it possible in Russia at that time even to utter the word "Bible" among scientists? Was it possible to speak about spaceflights in ancient times? And the brunt of the criticism was directed against my references to the Bible. A year later I was even charged with belittling Soviet science. By asserting that it was Enoch and not Yuri Gagarin who was the first to fly into outer space, I was betraying my Motherland!

My article "Astronauts of Yore" was published in the almanac "Na sushe i na more", Moscow, Geografiz, 1961. Later in 1965 to 1967 my article was included without my consent into the collection called "On the Track of Discovery", which was published in many languages, including English, French, Finnish and Dutch. This book was sold abroad and in a special bookstore in Moscow for foreign currency.

The official negative attitude to the idea of pal-

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eocontacts stopped the investigations of this problem in the USSR. The dissemination of the idea of paleocontacts in the early 1960s in the USA can briefly be described by the following quotes from two letters from the well-known astrophysicist, Iosef S. Shklovsky to the author of this article:

I. "A week ago [June, 1962], I received a reprint* from [Carl] Sagan, and I exclaimed: 'Oh! but that's just the American edition of Enoch.' For your information, Sagan is a rapidly growing specialist in Planet Astronomy. His investigations (especially the models of the Venus atmosphere, the origin of Life on the Earth and others) are well-known in the World.

"I wrote to him that you [Agrest] have been developing analogous ideas since 1959.

"If you consider it reasonable (and it seems to me that it is simply necessary) send him something of your publications about Enoch. He [in his reprint] pays much attention to the Babylonian ethos.

"In my book** I have written about the ideas of Sagan/after/Enoch. I expressed my point of view that Enoch and the Babylonian ethos might have a common root and they are speaking about the same events. What do you think about this?"

*Carl Sagan. Direct Contacts Between Different Civilizations by Means of Interstellar Flights with Velocities Near to the Velocity of Light. 1962.

** I.S. Shklovsky. Universe, Life, Intelligence, Moscow, 1963.

II. "I have received a letter from Sagan (in answer to my previous letter). He is very kind. I am quoting the words concerning you: 'I look forward to hearing from Dr. Agrest and will meanwhile try to find Enoch in the Bible.' So Enoch has really become the banner of such investigations."

In conclusion:

1. The Earth has been visited by extraterrestrial astronauts at least once.
2. These astronauts were manlike anthropomorphic beings.
3. There are many planets in the universe that are inhabited by intelligent beings.
4. Anthropomorphism (the "image" and "likeness") of intelligent beings is a universal principle.
5. It is time to bring the basic philosophy of life on Earth into accord with the previous four conclusions.

SPACEMEN IN ANCIENT MEXICO? Recently the DeYoung Museum in San Francisco opened a major exhibit on Teotihuacan, the archaeological site near Mexico City attributed to the Toltecs. The exhibit includes a large model of the Temple of the Sun, the principal structure there. I was impressed by a collection of "greenstone" cones, each about four inches in height. According to the placard, only 18 of these objects have been found, all of which were with 20 skeletons which were unearthed directly in the center of the Temple. What struck me about the objects was their amazing similarity to the cone-shaped Apollo reentry vehicles, which floated down on parachutes and landed in the ocean. On the bottom of each greenstone cone is a wavy pattern, which could signify fire, or waves. Another interesting fact is that in the area where the skeletons were found there is a cave with a seven ray motif. This has been explained as being where humankind first emerged on the Earth. My belief is that the cave was built as a memorial to the seven island kingdom of "Lemuria", which sank in a series of earthquakes in the Pacific Ocean. Easter Island may be the only above-water remnant of that vanished empire. Vaughn M. Greene, 548 Elm Avenue, San Bruno, CA 94066 USA.

SACRED AND MAGIC NUMBERS

BY ROBIN COLLYNS*

I read with interest the article IS MATHEMATICAL ABILITY EXTRATERRESTRIAL? by Max H. Flindt with Vella Munn in Ancient Skies 20:3. The hypothesis put forth by the authors of an inherent mathematical ability in mankind inherited from extraterrestrials is thought-provoking. I may be able to offer some reflections on a somewhat different, but perhaps related aspect. That is, that sophisticated and secret mathematical knowledge was taught to some early cultures by extraterrestrials.

Mathematics is amongst the most important of the sciences as the structure of physical matter and associated processes are closely bound to innate mathematical laws. As one example: it is known that certain numbers of spheres can be packed into closer and stronger groupings than by using random numbers of spheres. At Konstanz University, three German scientists, O. Eicht, E. Sattler and E. Recknagel, discovered that the same law applies to atoms. The scientists sprayed pure xenon gas into a vacuum with a supersonic jet; then a mass spectrometer was used to identify the numbers of atoms in the clusters. So-called "magic numbers" were identified. These formed and bound particularly tight clusters of 13, 19, 25, 55, 71, 87 and 147 atoms forming major peaks. Other smaller peaks were also revealed. Three of the "magic" groupings of atoms, that is, 13, 55 and 147, were already known in mathematics to be the precise numbers of spheres which would pack into icosahedrons (twenty-face solids). While the cluster of 19 xenon atoms appeared to represent an icosahedron. Computer calculations indicated that this particular configuration was especially stable.

The vast cosmos itself is mathematically ordered. Yan Einasto, D.Sc. Physics and Mathematics, and head of the Physics of Galaxies Division at the Estonian Academy of Sciences, said that our universe is structured similar to an immense "honeycomb". Walls of the "cells" are formed by aggregations of galaxies in proximity which "meet". The tremendous cavities within the cells, each of which measures some 100-200 million parsecs across, do not contain visible physical matter, but are theorized to be filled with vast clouds of subatomic neutrino particles. There are one billion times more neutrino particles than protons, which are positively-charged particles, in a cubic centimetre. The neutrino itself is an elementary particle with a zero rest mass and charge. Neutrinos are so impervious to other particles and matter that theoretically they could travel through two million kilometres of lead without striking one atom. Scientists are experimenting with neutrinos for the possibility of carrying messages to extraterrestrial civilizations by sending them through the Earth and on into space without being affected by electrical storms or by outer space interference.

But what of the teachings of the Yogis, and of the Bhagavad-Gita, the sixth book of the Sanskrit Mahabharata, which wrote of literally hundreds of thousands of physical universes beyond our own? If such a concept should one day be found to be, at least theoretically, correct, then the old civilizations could have learned this knowledge only from extraterrestrials. For we might never be able to see other universes. J. Richard Gott, a Princeton University astrophysicist, theorized that bubbles of matter form and expand at the speed of light until they grow to the size of a universe. Gott computed theoretical "infinite numbers" of bubble universes,

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including our own. He proposed that due to gravity and the curvature of space, the universes can never see nor contact each other.

There is the number 432,000 and its derivatives and multiples known to the wise ones of antiquity. Now it is known that this number is a cosmic rhythm relating to movements of the constellations, the 43,200 seconds between 12:00 AM and 12:00 PM, and to other factors. The Vedas describe each great cycle of Brahma as a period of 4,320,000,000 years! How the ancients knew of this cosmic rhythm is an enigma.

The Vedic system of mathematics was so far in advance of 20th century mathematics in terms of speed of calculations, that a link between this knowledge and space beings must be considered. The Great Vedic scholar, His Holiness Sri Jagadguru Shankaracharya Bharati Krishna Tirtha (1884-1960) wrote in his VEDIC MATHEMATICS, 1957 (Varanasi Motilal Banarsidass, 1965): "Even with complex problems involving a good number of mathematical operations to be performed consecutively or even simultaneously, the time taken by the Vedic method will be a third, a quarter, a tenth, or even a much small fraction of the time required according to modern Western methods. And in some very important and striking cases, sums requiring 30, 50, 100 or even more numerous and cumbersome "steps" of working according to the current Western methods, can be answered in a single and simple step by the Vedic method." As an aside, it is considered that some individuals who publicly perform very rapid and complex mental mathematical calculations are in fact mentally employing the techniques of Vedic mathematics.

Explicit mathematical formulae was intentionally concealed by early civilizations. This could indicate advanced knowledge taught to a selected few by advanced beings. A correspondent in Kuibyshev sent me an article called NEW DISCOVERIES OF STONEHENGE, by Drs. Valentin Tereshin and Vladimir Avinsky (Volzki Comsomolets, No. 21). Tereshin and Avinsky found during computer calculations of the Stonehenge geometry structure that the pentagram, that is, the five-pointed star, an old magical symbol, was assumed as a basis for its construction. That is to say, at least five circular groups that relate to Stonehenge, form a pentagram. Avinsky said: "We succeeded in discovering a pentagram in the complex and mysterious geometry of Stonehenge which, as it seems to us, was used as a basis for its arrangement, and carried information on the sizes of the planets of the solar system." According to the scientists, the pentagram is "well hidden" in the system of ring-shaped formations. The authors noted: "through the pentagram, the diameters of the planets of the solar system are ciphered in Stonehenge with an error factor of no more than one percent...the problem of squaring the circle was ciphered in the eleven-angled construction with the exactness of the fifth sign of the fraction. Who could think over such a problem at the end of the Stone Age and manage to embody it on the district in stone? All this, seems totally paradoxical."

In conclusion, the article said: "We believe that the exact arrangement of the megaliths in the huge distances from each other, could have been planned and carried out only on the basis of profound knowledge by the builders about the form of the Earth, and of the structure of the solar system. Mathematical and astronomical information, evidenced in the composition of the megaliths, greatly exceeds the potential possibilities of the society of the Bronze Age. The understanding of the history of Stonehenge, and what is still more important, the understanding of its purpose, the deciphering of its astronomical puzzle, is impossible without acknowledging an unknown, highly-developed culture." Atlantis? Extraterrestrial?

The mysterious number 666 in The Book of Revelations of the Holy Bible might be a code imparted by extraterrestrials. Frank McCarthy, a former satellite tracker with the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Office, says the 666 fits perfectly with the dynamics of a huge comet which he calculated has a 978-year orbit around the Sun, and which was simultaneously recorded by the Hebrews, Assyrians, Chinese, Romans, Greeks, Normans and Anglo-Saxons. According to the ancient ones the "beast" (666), that is, the "comet", was held in abeyance for 1,000 years before making its reappearance. An enigmatic passage in Revelations 13:18 seems to imply that the 666 would be decoded by a future computer generation. It states: "Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast...and his number is Six hundred threescore and six."

Perhaps in support of the mystery of knowledge relating to the 666 in the ancient world was the sophisticated mathematics possessed by the Mesopotamians. They knew of cubic and biquadratic equations, negative and transcendental numbers, systems of indeterminate equations, and curves of the 3rd and 4th orders. A 3,000 year-old Chaldean tablet reads that the radius of the Earth is (equal to) 6,310.5 kilometres. Current calculations put the Earth's radius at 6,371.03 km. The small difference is due to expansion of the Earth. It seems difficult to reconcile knowledge of the mathematical exactness of the radius of the Earth with such an early culture unless they had contact with a scientifically developed civilization.

There may be a possible indication in classical writings of knowledge handed down about computer memory chips - which surely must have been an unfathomable mystery to Cicero (106-43 BC), the Roman writer, orator and statesman. He wrote that there was once in existence a version of the Iliad, the epic poem by Homer, which was written on parchment "so small" that the entire work could fit into a "nutshell".

One of the most intriguing discoveries was made by Russian scientists that all over the ancient world were eight sacred numbers: 3, 7, 9, 11, 13, 24, 27 and 36. The scientists partially decoded the numbers with computers and found that although they appear to be a fragmentary knowledge they are nevertheless specific, and evidently originated from a single source. The figures represent celestial mathematics which is still not fully understood. The eight numbers represent planets of our solar system, the rhythms of solar activity, biorhythms, time characteristics and seemingly, secret information codes of certain world constants, that is, precise planetary data.

From where did simple cultures obtain this (computer) data?

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